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THE BULLETIN



STATE NORMAL SCHOOL
MOORHEAD MINNESOTA

THE BULLETIN

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL, Moorhead, Minnesota

Volume 13

JULY, 1918

Number 5

THOREAU IN MINNESOTA

By Mary Katharine Reely

Editorial Note: Miss Reely is a former resident of Minnesota who is now engaged in literary work in New York City. This essay is presented by permission of The Midland, a magazine of the middle west, which is published at Moorhead and edited by members of the Normal School faculty. Miss Reely's stories, "Mother's Day" and "A Doctor Goes North," published in The Midland during 1917, were included by The Boston Transcript in its annual list of the best American short stories, in which The Midland has received a higher average rating for the past three years than any other magazine.

The genius of Thoreau hovers so intimately about Walden Pond that there is something piquant in the thought of him botanizing along the shore of Lake Calhoun. It is as though one tried to imagine—but, no, there is no comparative picture that awakens quite the same sense of whimsical incongruity. Thoreau was the most narrowly localized of all literary men; Minnesota is a state arid in literary associations. Yet the two came together, and the shores of Calhoun and Harriet and the woods about Minnehaha have known the footfalls that wore pathways around Walden.

Thoreau visited Minnesota in 1861. He was then in his forty-fourth year and not far from the end of his too-short life. His quest to the Northwest was that pathetic one in search of health. A bronchial cough of the winter had lingered into spring.

"The doctor accordingly tells me," wrote Thoreau, "that I must 'clear out' to the West Indies, or elsewhere,—he does not seem to care much where. But I decide against the West Indies on account of their muggy heat in the summer and the South of Europe on account of the expense of time and money, and have at last concluded that it will be most expedient for me to try the air of Minnesota, say somewhere about St. Paul."

The journey began on the 13th of May, with young Horace Mann, eldest son of Horace Mann, the educator, as traveling companion, a congenial companion, if one can judge by the description of the boy as "a silent, earnest, devoted naturalist." Niagara, Detroit, and Chicago were stopping points on the long journey, the longest of Thoreau's life time, taking him furthest from his native Concord. At Niagara, listening to the roar of the falls in the distance, he found it easy to imagine that he was surrounded by the hum of factories, a fancy that may be looked on as prescient, if one wishes. At this first and only visit to one

have dealt partly with those of Southern birth, and have seen but little way below the surface. I was glad to be told yesterday that there was a good deal of weeping here at Red Wing [this was written on June 26] when the volunteers at Fort Snelling followed the regulars to the seat of war. They do not weep when their children go up the river to occupy the deserted forts, though they may have to fight the Indians there.

But notes of historical importance, or of economic or social significance are rare. The prevailing industry of the region at that time is mentioned:

In coming up the river from Dunleith you meet with great rafts of sawed lumber and of logs, twenty rods or more in length, by five or six wide, floating down, all from the pine region above the falls.

But these matters are only noted by the way. It is in entries such as the following that Thoreau's real preoccupations are revealed:

The rose-breasted grosbeak very abundant in the woods of the Minnehaha, singing robin-like all the while.

Acorns are full as scarce as with us in Concord, picked up by the *Spermophili*, (and no doubt planted by him).

I find a wild pigeon's nest in a young bass tree, ten feet from the ground, four or five rods south of Lake Calhoun.

The loons are said to nest in old muskrat houses, and elsewhere around Lake Harriet.

By the lake in a scarlet oak eight feet up, I found a pigeon's nest like the former one, but more stable.

The *Spermophili* referred to is a prairie squirrel, a new species to Thoreau, and therefore given minute attention, as were the gophers, between which he took pains to distinguish. His description of the little animal that has, in a semi-official way, been made the symbol of the state, is a fair example of his method:

Dirty grayish-white beneath,—above, dirty brown, with six dirty, tawny or clay-colored, very light-brown lines or stripes (three times as broad),—the last having an interrupted line or square spot of the same color with the first mentioned, running down their middle; reminding me of the rude pattern of some Indian work,—porcupine quills, "gopher work" in baskets and pottery.

In Minneapolis, Thoreau found a fellow naturalist and comrade to his taste in Dr. Charles Anderson, who constituted himself a guide to the region about the lakes, introducing the visitor to many new plants and shrubs. Among these was *Pyrus coronaria*, the search for which had mounted finally to a quest. *Pyrus coronaria* is the wild crab apple, common in Illinois and Wisconsin, more rare in Minnesota, unknown in the East. A shrub-like tree, growing only to a height of twenty-or-so feet, with knotted and thorny branches, it is, when covered with its

deeply-colored, richly-fragrant blossoms, a thing of lovely, wayward beauty. He tells something of the search for and final finding of the treasure:

On June 5 I went to Mrs. Hamilton's near Lake Harriet; the house (in Richfield) built seven years ago, in 1854. Around it was abundance of wild artichoke. She says the wild apple grew then about her premises; her husband first saw it on a ridge by the shore of Lake Harriet. They had dug up several trees and set them out, but all had died. The settlers also set out the wild plum, thimbleberry, etc. So I went and searched in that very unlikely place but could find nothing like it; though Hamilton said there was one there three feet higher than the lake. I brought home a thorn in bloom, and asked if that was it? Mrs. H. then gave me more particular directions, and I searched again faithfully; and this time I brought home an *amelanchier* as the nearest of kin,—doubting if the apple had ever been seen there; but she knew both these plants. Her husband had first discovered it by the fruit; she had not seen it in bloom.

We then called in Fitch and talked about it; he said it *was* found and directed me to a Mr. Grimes as one who had found it. He was gone to catch the horse, to send his boy six miles for a doctor on account of a sick child. The boy showed me some of the trees he had set out this spring; but they had all died, having a long tap root and being taken up too late. Then I was convinced by the sight of the just expanding though withered leaf; and I plucked a solitary withered flower, the better to analyze it. Finally I stayed and went in search of the tree with the father, in his pasture,—where I found it first myself, quite a cluster of them.

Thoreau remained in the neighborhood some three weeks, and then joined an excursion up the Minnesota river to Redwood Falls to "see the plains and the Sioux." Governor Ramsay, the superintendent of Indian affairs for the district, and a newly appointed Indian agent were of the party. The river boat was the "Frank Steele," and the journey was one of about three hundred miles, for the river is winding. Indeed it is on its amazing crookedness that the voyager, in the long letter to Sanborn which gives a full account of the expedition, most dwells. At the greater bends, such as that of the Traverse des Sioux, he records that some of the passengers walked across and took the boat again on the other side. The account is not without humor.

"The navigation is very novel to me," wrote Thoreau. "In making a short turn, we repeatedly and designedly ran square into the steep and soft bank, taking in a cart load of earth,—this being more effectual than the rudder to fetch us about again. . . . We very frequently got aground, and then drew ourselves along with a windlass and a cable fastened to a tree, or we swung around in the current and completely blocked up and blockaded the river, one end of the boat resting on each shore. It was one consolation to know that in such case we were all the while damming the river and so raising it."

And again he refers to Baron La Hontan's account of his explorations of this stream which he had named La Rivière Longue. "He relates various improbable things about the country and its inhabitants, so that this letter has been regarded as pure fiction, or more properly speaking, a lie." "But," comments Thoreau, "I am somewhat inclined now to reconsider the matter."

The Minnesota is referred to as "eminently *the river*" of the state, since she shares the Mississippi with Wisconsin. "And it is of incalculable value to her," he adds. "It flows through very fertile country, destined to be famous for its wheat."

One of the boat's stopping points was New Ulm, where "we left the Germans 100 barrels of salt, which will be at a higher price when the water is lowest."

He found Redwood to be "a mere locality—scarcely an Indian village," and writes, "We are now fairly on the great plains, and looking south; and after walking that way three miles, could see no tree in that horizon. The buffalo are said to be feeding within twenty-five or thirty miles."

This was the westernmost point reached in Thoreau's travels.

At the agency he witnessed a ceremonial dance and listened to the council between the red men and white. The Indians, he observes, had the advantage in truth, and consequently in earnestness and eloquence as well. Chief Little Crow was the most prominent of the Indians, and Thoreau's statement to the effect that "they were quite dissatisfied with the white man's treatment of them, and probably have reason to be," was full of dark portent, for in the year following came the Sioux uprising.

Thoreau then returned to Red Wing, at which point he received letters from home and wrote at length to Sanborn, saying, "I could tell you more and perhaps more interesting things if I had time. I am considerably better, but still far from well."

From Red Wing he began the homeward journey, which took him to Milwaukee and by way of the lakes to Mackinac.

The Minnesota visit had little significance in the life of Thoreau, which was cut short so soon after. The shadow of ill health falls over it; yet there are brighter touches that make it a pleasant memory. It is referred to but once in later writings, in the volume "Excursions." And again it is *Pyrus coronaria* that draws his thoughts westward. Thoreau is writing of "Wild Apples:"

Nevertheless *one* wild apple is wild only like myself, perchance, who belong not to the aboriginal race here, but have strayed into the woods from the cultivated stock. Wilder still as I have said, there grows elsewhere in this country a native and aboriginal Crab-Apple, whose nature has not yet been modified by cultivation. . . . I never saw the Crab-Apple till May, 1861. I had heard of it through Michaux, but more modern botanists, so far as I know, have not treated it as of any peculiar importance. Thus it was a half-fabulous tree to me. I contemplated a pilgrimage to the 'Glades,' a portion of Pennsylvania

where it was said to grow to perfection. I thought of sending to a nursery for it, but doubted if they had it or would distinguish it from European varieties. At last I had occasion to go to Minnesota, and on entering Michigan I began to notice from the cars a tree with handsome rose-colored flowers. At first I thought it some variety of thorn; but it was not long before the truth flashed on me, that this was my long-sought Crab-Apple. It was the prevailing flowering shrub or tree to be seen from the cars at that season of the year,—about the middle of May. But the cars never stopped before one, and so I was launched on the bosom of the Mississippi without having touched one, experiencing the fate of Tantalus. On arriving at St. Anthony's Falls, I was sorry to be told that I was too far north for the Crab-Apple. Nevertheless I succeeded in finding it about eight miles west of the Falls; touched it and smelled it, and secured a lingering corymb of flowers for my herbarium.

Had the then youthful state desired to do honor to her distinguished guest, could she have done so more charmingly than in the bestowal of this gift, a corymb of crab-apple blossom for his herbarium!

NOTE: When not otherwise noted all quotations from letters and journals have been taken from Frank Sanborn's recent "Life of Henry David Thoreau." The long letter written from Red Wing will be found in full in Mr. Sanborn's earlier edition of Thoreau's "Familiar Letters."

M. K. R.

LIBRARY WAR WORK

About 450 books have been collected to send to the soldiers' library at Camp Funston, one hundred of these being non-fiction, the rest fiction. As the result of a few students' and Miss Dart's untiring efforts to make the books acceptable, book plates, pockets, and shelf cards have been made for all of them. Dr. Weld and members of the faculty contributed many of the books. The normal and model school students, with the aid of their critic teachers, contributed generously, as did the Camp Fire girls under Miss Maude Hanson. These books have been sent direct to Fort Riley at Camp Funston.

FACULTY WOMEN IN WAR WORK

The Moorhead Normal is not only proud of the fact that she has sent a large number of boys to the service of her country, but also women of the faculty, as well. Miss Helen Welter, formerly assistant in the History Department, has left us to take up the profession of nursing. Miss Welter left Moorhead shortly after the close of the past school year for Vassar College, where she will take a three months' training course this summer. This class is composed only of college graduates and they are accepted for entrance only on examination. She will then enter Sinai Hospital in New York City for two years' further training, after which she will offer her services abroad.

Miss Lindbloom, who has been school nurse for several years past, has offered her services to the Red Cross. Miss Lindbloom has just taken her examinations and expects to leave about September 1st. She will do service in this country a short time before going abroad.

Miss Maude Hayes, of the Department of Reading, is spending the summer as a volunteer in the work of providing entertainment for the boys in the training camps. Her absence from our teaching staff is only temporary. The following letter from Miss Hayes is of interest not only to those who know the writer, but to the general public as well:

Manhattan, Kansas, June 25, 1918

Dear Dr. Weld:

I wish every man, woman and child in the United States could spend one day, under the proper auspices, in one of our camps. The result would be one of genuine amazement at the rapidity and thoroughness with which our government has constructed these war time cities. No longer would we hear adverse criticisms, but on the contrary each and every one would go back proud that he belonged to a country which could so promptly and efficiently meet so unexpected an emergency. I am sure, too, that there would be developed a feeling of shame almost at having to leave the dusty, rudely constructed, uncomfortable cantonments, where the men who are going to fight our battles have to live so long, and go back to a life of ease and comfort.

I have visited now, beginning with Fort Snelling, in our own state, the cantonments in Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Missouri and Kansas, and I go on to Colorado today. With the exception of three nights necessarily spent in transit I have spoken every night, nearly always twice and sometimes three times. Frequently, I have had to take a train immediately after my talk. I often spend from two to four hours in the hospitals reading in the convalescent wards. Never have I had such appreciative audiences. They all listen with the Khaki viewpoint of which we hear so much now-a-days. I might characterize this generally by saying it is: "Make the most of everything—work while you work, play while you play, and enjoy while you enjoy."

They certainly work. At some of the cantonments, where they have been longest, they look like war-seasoned veterans. Think, then, of hundreds gathering in the evening to be entertained. Many places there have not been seats enough, and the men have stood for over an hour, seemingly just as happy as those who were sitting. That is the spirit—"don't grumble, make the best of everything." Most of my talks have been in the Y. M. C. A. huts. I just wish everybody could see how the men flock there, the long rows of men writing letters, the room full of men reading, and above all the spirit of comradeship and loyalty which is being developed there. I am sure that the next Y. M. C. A. drive would make us all go deep down into our pockets.

Faithfully yours,
MAUDE HAYES.

SUMMER SESSION

SUMMER SESSION WAR WORK AMONG THE STUDENTS

In place of the five knitting auxiliaries organized in the Normal School during the past year, one large group was formed to meet every Tuesday evening from 7 to 8. This group will complete all the articles left unfinished by the spring classes, and use up the yarn allotted to them.

Surgical Dressings classes were established to meet on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

The results of the campaign were splendid, as 188 signed up for Surgical Dressings and 300 for knitting.

THE RELATION OF WAR TO THE CLASSROOM

In the April number of the Bulletin an account was given of the work which some of the classes were doing in connection with the war. This work will be taken up again during the summer session.

Mr. Frederick's Advanced Composition classes will use, to a certain extent, current history topics for their oral reports and written themes.

Dr. Durboraw's History classes will continue, in part, the work of last term. Besides this there is offered a course in European History, covering the period from 1815 to the present day. This will deal primarily with the present war, giving a full historical background.

Mr. Hagen's classes in Advanced Civics will take up some work in connection with the relation of Government to the present war.

Mr. Huff's Geography classes will study some of the greater movements of the war. They will also note the effect of weather and of physical features and conditions on the carrying on of the war.

DEDICATION OF SERVICE FLAG

A formal service for the dedication of the Moorhead State Normal School service flag will be held during the summer sessions. The following committee has been appointed to make arrangements for the service: Mr. Martin, Miss Deans, Mr. Ballard, Miss Dahl, Mr. Jacobson, and Miss Gage of the student body. The flag contains 70 stars.

CHAPEL EXERCISES

Several important addresses are included in the chapel program for the summer session. One of the most interesting of these addresses was given by Dr. Fritz Osten-Sacken in June. Dr. Osten-Sacken is a descendant of a Prussian noble family, and until the age of twenty-three lived the life of his class. He was a student at Heidelberg and later an officer in the Prussian army. Hence he speaks with unusual authority regarding the monstrous evil of Prussian military autocracy, and with deep feeling concerning the future of the oppressed German people.

Dr. Weld's reading from Corra Harris '15 "Why We Are at War" on the morning of July second was memorable for its interest and

beauty. Other readings from modern magazines and books, both in poetry and prose, will be included in the summer's program.

Among other important addresses delivered during the summer session are the following:

"Social Hygiene," Dr. Mabel Ulrich, July 9.

"How Russia Came to be a World Menace," Prof. W. A. Frayer, University of Michigan, July 10.

"The Background of the War," Prof. W. A. Frayer, July 11.

"The Beginning of Life," Prof. W. H. Dudley, University of Wisconsin, July 12.

"Problems of Subnormality Confronting the Public School Teacher," Miss May E. Bryne, Mental Examiner, Minneapolis City Schools, July 17. (Illustrated).

"Mental and Physical Defects," Miss Bryne, July 18.

"Present Conditions in Russia," W. M. Sternberg, University of Minnesota, July 22. (Prof. Sternberg was born and educated in Petrograd. He was in Russia during the revolution in the Spring of 1917).

EDUCATIONAL MOTION PICTURE FILMS

Students of the summer session at Moorhead Normal are fortunate in the opportunity to see a surprisingly large number of the world's best and most important motion picture productions, without cost, during the short six weeks' period. Probably the most important picture to be shown at the Auditorium during the summer is the eight-reel dramatization of "Les Miserables," which was presented on the evening of July second. Among other unusually good films presented during the summer are the following:

Yellowstone Park (Hand-colored, two series).

Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer.

Burton Holmes Travelogues (Four).

The Making of a Red Cross Nurse.

SPECIAL GYMNASIUM WORK

A course preparing teachers to become Physical Educators was given during the last spring term. This course is being continued in the summer term and the same kind of work will be taken up next year. Observation classes in Physical Education have been organized during the summer session so that the students may learn to teach children to discipline and lead themselves. A full professional credit is being given for this work. Besides this work, Swedish gymnastics, games, and folks dances are offered to the students on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings from 7 until 8 o'clock.

Y. W. PARTY

The largest social event of the summer session was a "Get together" party held in the "gym" Saturday, June twenty-second, under the auspices of the Y. W. C. A. The first feature of the program was a contest to see who could meet the greatest number of people in a given time. The prize was won by Miss Mable Ericson. The special

entertainment consisted of six stunts and a Scandinavian dialect reading by James Ballard. The refreshments, which were enjoyed by "young and old alike," were a great quantity of strictly "Hooverized" lollipops.

SPECIAL SUMMER FACULTY

More or less excitement is always exhibited among the student body over the arrival of any new faculty members. The first few days much concern was shown when such inquiries as the following were made: "Well, what did you say her name was?" "Have you seen him yet?" "What does she look like? I hope she won't work us too hard." The curious students were unable to receive much enlightenment on this subject, as nobody knew. After one or two days these inquiries are changed to concise opinions. "Well, do you know she told us the funniest story today——." "Actually, he is so cross, we hardly dare breathe." "This man gives us so much outside work, you might think we are not taking another solitary thing." The members of the "Special Summer Faculty" are among the victims of such rash statements as these.

Mrs. Hubbel, instructor in Reading and Expression, occupies the place temporarily vacated by Miss Hayes. Mrs. Hubbel is not a stranger among us, having taught here during the summer for several years past. She is otherwise connected with Fargo College, being head of the Department of Expression of that school.

Mr. Geise, Principal of the Crookston High School, is instructor in Algebra and United States History. Mr. Geise, also, has previously taught here during the summer.

Mr. Hagen, instructor in Civics, is the present Superintendent of Schools at Detroit, Minnesota. It may be of interest to the students of the M. N. S. to know that the majority of teachers who are to teach there during the coming year are graduates from this school.

Mr. Jacobsen, instructor in Mathematics, is the recently elected Superintendent of Schools of the city of Moorhead.

GRADUATE OF SPECIAL COURSE

Miss Marie Costello of Graceville, Minn., expects to graduate from the course in Elementary Education this summer. She will be the second one to have completed this course, Miss Amundson of last year's faculty being the first. This course consists of one year's work in addition to the regular two year advanced course.

ALUMNI IN THE SUMMER SESSION

Grace Loudon, who completed the advanced course with Class '18, is doing post graduate work as preparation for entering the university.

Edna Merritt, a graduate of '17, is also preparing for work at the university.

Bertha Strand is here for special work in Home Economics.

THE JUNE COMMENCEMENT

CLASS DAY PROGRAM

Piano Duet	Selected
Marion Marshall, Emma Waterstrat	
Scripture Reading—	
Lois Zickefoose, Class President	
Response—	
By the School	
Hymn	"Still, Still With Thee"
By the School	
Salutation—	
James Ballard	
Vocal Solo	Selected
Virginia Gage	
Presentation of Class Standard—	
Lois Zickefoose	
Response—	
Charles Lein, President of Junior Class	
Violin Solo	From "Thais"
Frances Freeborn	
Presentation of Class Memorial (\$500 to Red Cross)—	
Clare Hager	
Response—	
President Weld	
Trio	Absent
Virginia Gage, Frances Irgens, Lela Hoyt	
Presentation of Literary Prizes—	
Mr. Frederick	
Farewell—	
Loraine Cameron	
Class Song	Words Written by Marion Marshall

GRADUATION EXERCISES

The graduating exercises were held June 30 at the auditorium. Dr. Marion D. Shutter of Minneapolis, who was to have given the commencement address, was unable to be present, so a symposium was arranged for on "Education in a great crisis." The following program was given:

PROGRAM

March—Lenore	Raff
Orchestra	
Invocation—	
Rev. George W. Powell	
Fantasie—Life a Dream	Eilen
Orchestra	

Symposium—Education in a Great Crisis—
 Senator F. H. Peterson
 Judge Charles A. Pollock
 Hon. Charles H. Marden
 Miss Maude Hayes
 Dr. Henry Hoag Frost

Contributions to the Country's Service—
 Miss Thornton

Our Boys in the Service—
 Mr. Martin
 SOLDIERS' HYMN

Abide with me! Fast falls the even tide,
 The darkness deepens—Lord, with me abide!
 When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
 Help of the helpless, O abide with me!

I need Thy presence every passing hour;
 What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
 Who, like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
 Thro' cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me!

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;
 Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness;
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
 I triumph still, if Thou abide with me!

Intermezzo—Naila Delibes
 Orchestra

Conferring of Diplomas—
 Hon. S. G. Comstock

Selection—Alma Briquet
 Orchestra

Benediction—

MODEL SCHOOL ENTERTAINMENT

On May 29, the Elementary school presented a pageant in five acts, "The Spirit of Democracy," in the auditorium. In the first act the allies made an appeal to "Uncle Sam" (Wallace Robertson) for aid but he did not join their forces until the "Red Cross" and "Y. M. C. A." signified their intention to help. Then "War Gardens," "Liberty Bonds" and "Food Conservation" came forward. The second act was laid in France, and showed the "nurses" exercising when off duty. In the third act "sailors" were seeking the "Y. M. C. A." in a foreign port and performing stunts. In the fourth act a scene of a battle was presented, and later on the "French girls" danced in honor of the victorious soldiers. In the fifth act the "Spirit of Democracy" (Madaline Gleason) lifted the "Spirit of the Oppressed People" from her chains and took her place of supremacy amid the nations. The children gave evidence of thorough training and the instructors in charge are to be congratulated on the splendid results.

GROCER
I. C. WEEK

722-24 FRONT STREET
Moorhead

DR. O. J. HAGEN
Physician and Surgeon

MOORHEAD MINN.

Mr. Powers, to his music class:
"Don't give these extreme clas-
sical pieces to the youngsters.
Why they'll just sit there and
giggle their heads off."

"Do you think a man can live
without brains?"

"It seems that most of them
do."

F. A. Buck
Garage

TAXI AND LIVERY

2268—PHONES—2269

Lillian W.: "Say something
soft and sweet to me."

Voice over the telephone: "Oh,
custard pie."

WATCHES JEWELRY

T. C. WILSON

WATCHMAKER and JEWELER

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SILVERWARE CUT GLASS

(Adv. Comp. class please notice)

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speaking.

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speaking.

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A. H. Costain, Cashier
E. D. Askegaard, Ass't. Cashier
E. S. Peterson, Ass't. Cashier



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THE OLDEST BANK IN CLAY COUNTY

"When is the best time to catch
soft water?"

"When it's raining hard."

He: "I don't think I de-
serve zero on this examination."

Teacher: "No, I don't either;
but you know that's the lowest
I could give you."

"What happened to you this
morning?"

"Oh, I slipped on a thunder
peel."

THE FARMERETTE

Farmer: "Have you ever
milked cows before?"

Mildred F.: "Not exactly, but
I've had lots of experience with
a fountain pen."

Zervas
Market...

FISH AND OYSTERS
IN SEASON

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Poultry Solicited

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country customers

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THE PALACE

MOORHEAD, MINN.

"Why is everyone looking out of the window?" asked the old lady of the street-car conductor.

Con.: "We ran over a cat, madam."

Old Lady: "Was the cat on the track?"

Con.: "Oh, no ma'am; the motorman chased him up a back alley."

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